

1. (Once Amended) A well drilling and servicing fluid which can be continuously circulated in a borehole comprising an aqueous liquid, a polymer which increase the low shear rate viscosity of the fluid to the extent that the thixotropic index of the fluid is at least 10, a surfactant, and aphrons which are generated by the encapsulation of gas in a fluid by a thin aqueous surfactant-containing shell wherein the surfactant molecules are so positioned that they produce an effective barrier against coalescence with adjacent aphrons, the fluid containing less than about 11% by volume of aphrons.

4. (Once Amended) A recirculateable drilling fluid, comprising:
an aqueous liquid;
a viscosifier that increases the low shear rate viscosity of the fluid to the extent that the shear thinning index of the fluid is at least 10;
a surfactant; and
aphrons, wherein the aphrons comprise less than about 11% by volume of the fluid.

5. (Once Amended) A recirculateable drilling fluid according to claim 4 wherein the aphrons comprise less than about 6.5% by volume of the aphrons.

6. (Once Amended) A recirculateable servicing fluid, comprising:
an aqueous liquid;
a viscosifier that increases the low shear rate viscosity of the fluid to the extent that the shear thinning index of the fluid is at least 10;
a surfactant; and
aphrons, wherein the aphrons comprise less than about 11% by volume of the fluid.

7. (Once Amended) A recirculateable servicing fluid according to claim 6 wherein the aphrons comprise less than about 6.5% by volume of the aphrons.

Q³ 8. (Once Amended) The drilling or servicing fluid according to claims 4 or 6 wherein the
aphrons prevent loss of excess fluid in a formation.

Q⁴ 10. (Once Amended) The drilling or servicing fluid according to claims 4 or 6 wherein the
aphrons effectively seal a formation.

Q⁵ 14. (Once Amended) A drilling fluid, comprising:
an aqueous liquid;
a viscosifier that creates a low shear rate viscosity in the fluid;
a surfactant; and
aphrons.

Q⁶ 16. (Once Amended) A servicing fluid, comprising:
an aqueous liquid;
a viscosifier that creates a low shear rate viscosity in the fluid;
a surfactant; and
aphrons.

Q⁷ 18. (Once Amended) The drilling or servicing fluid according to claims 14 or 16 wherein
the fluid is recirculateable.

Please add the following new claims:

Q⁸ 22. The drilling fluid of claim 21 wherein the polymer is a biopolymer.

23. The drilling fluid of claim 14 wherein the surfactant molecules are so positioned that they
produce an effective barrier against coalescence with adjacent aphrons.

24. The drilling fluid of claim 21 wherein the aphrons comprise less than about 11% by volume
of the fluid.

25. The drilling fluid of claim 21 wherein the aphrons comprise less than about 6.5% by volume of the fluid.
26. The drilling fluid of claim 21 wherein the fluid is recirculateable.
27. The drilling fluid of claim 26 wherein the polymer increases the low shear rate viscosity of the fluid to the extent that the thixotropic index of the fluid is at least 10.
28. The drilling fluid of claim 27 wherein the aphrons comprise less than about 11% by volume of the fluid.
29. The drilling fluid of claim 27 wherein the aphrons comprise less than about 6.5% by volume of the fluid.
30. The drilling fluid of claim 14 wherein the aphrons prevent loss of excess drilling fluid in a formation.
31. The drilling fluid of claim 14 wherein the aphrons effectively seal a formation.
32. The servicing fluid of claim 21 wherein the polymer is a biopolymer.
33. The servicing fluid of claim 16 wherein the surfactant molecules are so positioned that they produce an effective barrier against coalescence with adjacent aphrons.
34. The servicing fluid of claim 21 wherein the aphrons comprise less than about 11% by volume of the fluid.
35. The servicing fluid of claim 21 wherein the aphrons comprise less than about 6.5% by volume of the fluid.
36. The servicing fluid of claim 21 wherein the fluid is recirculateable.
37. The servicing fluid of claim 36 wherein the polymer increases the low shear rate viscosity of the fluid to the extent that the thixotropic index of the fluid is at least 10.